

1-12. (Cancelled)

13 (Currently Amended). An isolated polypeptide which is capable of binding to RIP ~~and modulating or mediating the intracellular activity of RIP~~, which polypeptide comprises:

(a) a RIP-associated protein (RAP) encoded by a DNA sequence in a clone deposited with Collection Nationale de Cultures de Microorganismes under accession number I-2706;

(b) a fragment of (a) which binds to RIP;

(c) an analog of (a) having no more than ten changes in the amino acid sequence of (a), each said change being a substitution, deletion or insertion of an amino acid, which analog binds to RIP; or

(d) a derivative of (a), (b) or (c) by modification of a functional group which occurs as a side chain or an N- or C-terminal group of one or more amino acid residues thereof without changing one amino acid to another of the twenty commonly-occurring natural amino acids, which derivative binds to RIP.

14. (Original). A polypeptide according to claim 13, comprising a protein whose amino acid sequence is that of SEQ ID NO:2.

15. (Previously Amended). A polypeptide according to claim 13, which comprises the amino acid sequence of (b).

16. (Previously Amended). A composition comprising the polypeptide according to claim 13, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Withdrawn). An antibody or active fragment or derivative thereof, specific for a polypeptide according to claim 13.

19. (Withdrawn). A method for modulating RIP modulated/mediated effect on cells, comprising treating said cells with the antibody or active fragment or derivative thereof according to claim 18, said treating being by application of a suitable composition containing said antibody or active fragment or derivative thereof to said cells, wherein when the RAP protein or portions thereof of said cells are exposed on the extracellular surface, said composition is formulated for extracellular application, and when said RAP proteins are intracellular said composition is formulated for intracellular application.

20. (Withdrawn). A method for the modulation or mediation of the RIP modulated/mediated intracellular effects on the inflammation, cell death or cell survival pathways in which RIP is involved directly, or indirectly via other modulators/mediators of these pathways, comprising treating said cells with one or more polypeptides according to claim

13, capable of binding to RIP and modulating or mediating said intracellular activity of RIP, wherein said treating of said cells comprises introducing into said cells said one or more polypeptides in a form suitable for intracellular introduction thereof, or introducing into said cells a DNA sequence encoding said one or more polypeptides in the form of a suitable vector carrying said sequence, said vector being capable of effecting the insertion of said sequence into said cells in a way that said sequence is expressed in said cells.

21-26. (Cancelled)

27. (Withdrawn). A method of modulating processes that are mediated/modulated by RIP directly or indirectly and which include the inhibition of NF- κ B and JNK, comprising treating said cells with one or more polypeptides according to claim 13 capable of binding to RIP, wherein said treating of cells comprises introducing into said cells said one or more polypeptides in a form suitable for intracellular introduction thereof, or introducing into said cells a DNA sequence encoding said one or more polypeptide in the form of a suitable vector carrying said sequence, said vector being capable of effecting the insertion of said sequence into said cells in a way that said sequence is expressed in said cells.

28. (Withdrawn). The antibody according to claim 18 which is a monoclonal antibody.

29. (Withdrawn). A method of modulating cellular processes modulated/mediated by RIP directly or indirectly, comprising causing one or more polypeptide according to claim 13, capable of binding to RIP, to come into contact with the interior of said cells.